

Message Text

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44-L

ACTION EUR-25

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DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /149 W
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7899

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2582

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, DA, XF, XX

SUBJ: BREZHNEV AND DANISH PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

REF: MOSCOW 12798

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM MOSCOW THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WAS PRINCIPAL SUBJECT DISCUSSED DURING ANKER JORGEN'S THREE-HOUR TALK WITH PARTY SECRETARY BREZHNEV OCTOBER 16. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE AVAILABLE HERE PRIMIN ANKER JORGENSEN'S THREE-HOUR TALK WITH BREZHNEV OCTOBER 16 (TALK WAS SCHEDULED TO LAST LESS THAN ONE HOUR) DEALT HEAVILY WITH MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT ANKER JORGENSEN OFFERED DANISH GOOD OFFICES IF THESE MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING CONFLICT TO AN EARLY END. DANISH OFFER REPORTEDLY MADE IN RESPONSE TO BREZHNEV'S COMMENT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARLY TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES
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LIES NOT ONLY WITH THE GREAT POWERS BUT ALSO WITH SMALL COUNTRIES.

2. BREZHNEV'S STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST, WHICH WERE NOT WITHHELD FROM PRESS, AS KOSYGIN'S REMARKS OCTOBER 15 HAD BEEN (SEE REFTEL), WERE SUMMARIZED IN FOLLOWING THREE POINTS: (A) HE ASSURED DANISH PRIMIN THAT SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE ITS CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAELI STATE AND THEREFORE IT ACKNOWLEDGES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO CONTINUED SECURE EXISTENCE AS A STATE; (B) AN EARLY CESSATION OF THE WAR NECESSARY BECAUSE OTHER COUNTRIES COULD BECOME INVOLVED, SO THAT IT WOULD DEVELOP INTO A LARGER AND UNCONTROLLABLE CONFLICT; (C) ONE OF MOST DANGEROUS POSSIBILITIES WAS THAT THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT COULD DEVELOP IN SUCH A DIRECTION THAT IT WOULD DAMAGE THE POLICY OF DETENTE BETWEEN THE U.S AND THE SOVIET UNION.

3. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT BREZHNEV WAS EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS AND PRECISE IN HIS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE U.S. HE REPORTEDLY MADE NO CIRITICAL COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICY, NOT EVEN IN CONNECTION WITH MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF A METHODOICAL EXPANSION OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S; ADDING THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD VISIT MOSCOW IN THE COURSE OF 1974.

4. SAME PRESS SOURCES DOWN-PLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF ABRUPT CANCELLATION OF JORGENSEN'S MEETINGS WITH KOSYGIN, STATING THAT CANCELLATION WAS UNOFFICIALLY EXPLAINED TO PRESS AS DUE TO AN UNEXPECTED VISIT IN MOSCOW OCTOBER 16 BY IRAQ'S PRESIDENT EL-BAKR. THIS UNOFFICIAL EXPLANATION INDICATED THAT EL-BAKR VISIT CONNECTED WITH ARAB REQUEST FOR MIG 23 TYPE AIRCRAFT AND APPARENTLY INCLUDED ASSURANCES THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ONLY MIG 21 TYPE AIRCRAFT.

5. DANISH FONOFF OFFICIAL BACKSTOPPING JORGENSEN'S VISIT, TOLD EMBOFF THAT NO OFFICIAL REPORT OF PRIMIN'S TALK WITH BREZHNEV RECEIVED AS YET IN COPENHAGEN.

6. COMMENT: JORGENSEN'S AND BREZHNEV'S STATEMENTS WERE APPARENTLY ONLY GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD WILL. IF ANY SPECIFIC SOVIET DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE EUROPEAN INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAD BEEN INTENDED, FONOFF WOULD PROBABLY HAVE HAD REPORT BY THIS

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TIME, IN VIEW OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN OCT 17.

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